

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER LAUDS FRANCE: WELCOMES CHIRAC VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI 1134

1. IN AN AFP INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE CAPITAL PRESS ON
JANUARY 21, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI SAID A WARM WELCOME AWAITS
MR. CHIRAC WHO ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI ON JANUARY 23 FOR A
FIVE-DAY VISIT. FRANCE, MRS. GANDHI EXPLAINED HAD SHOWN A
REMARKABLE POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING OF INDIA'S OBJECTIVES AND
POLICIES. "PERHAPS THIS IS BECAUSE FRANCE TAKES
AN INDEPENDENT VIEW OF THE WORLD AND ITS PROBLEMS.
THE FRENCH PERCEPTION OF INDIA HAS BEEN KEENER AND MORE
ACCURATE AND MORE SYMPATHETIC THAN THAT OF COUNTRIES WHICH
ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW INDIA BETTER."

2. WHEN ASKED HOW THE TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT DEVELOP NUCLEAR
ENERGY COOPERATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID INDIA HOPED
FOR A GREATER EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE.
SHE SAID INDIA HAD ALWAYS REGARDED NUCLEAR SCIENCE AS
A FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT.SCHNEIDER

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